

fuit inceptum,' which being denounced as barbarous was justified by the authority of Livy.*

My studies were then interrupted by a severe illness which lasted for several months, and it was only from the unremitted care of my dear mother, who watched by my bedside day and night, that I recovered. With great difficulty I was conducted in a carriage to Largo, on the shores of the Firth of Forth, where I soon gained strength. I remember in one of my first airings being shown the house in which Alexander Selkirk, the original of Robinson Crusoe, had resided, and in which his musket was still preserved by his family.

This was the crisis of my constitution. I have ever since enjoyed almost uninterrupted health. I cannot much regret my sickly boyhood, as to that I ascribe my preference of the pleasure of reading to boisterous exercises and the sports of the field.

I was sent back to St. Andrews. My brother and I, instead of being in lodgings in the town, had now rooms, or rather a room and a closet, in St. Salvator's College. There was dinner in the hall only for bursars or exhibitioners on the foundation, and we dined with other students at an ordinary at sixpence a head. The dinner was plentiful if not elegant. The abundance of fish and the cheapness of butcher's meat and poultry in those days furnished a table at a price which now seems ridiculous. We were from necessity very temperate or rather abstemious, having nothing to drink stronger than 'twopenny' or small beer, and very little pocket-money for occasional indulgence. But once or twice a month we had a *booze*—a meeting in the evening of eight or ten young men who sat down to punch and continued drinking and singing to a late hour. Once a session there was an extraordinary meeting of this sort called a '*Gaudemus*.' 'Tipping' being unknown or unpracticed as far as we concerned, to enable us to sustain such expenses we used sometimes to stay away from the ordinary and dine on dry bread, so that the saved sixpences might enable us to 'keep up a genteel

*Livy, b. i. c. 65, *sub finem*.